

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claims, AMEND claims, and ADD new claims, in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer having a character input function, comprising:

a detecting section detecting a keyword ~~which is specified by one or more input characters from a character string that is being input by the character input function~~;

a display section displaying a menu screen indicating registered dictionaries when the keyword is detected by said detecting section; and

an issuing section issuing a search request for dictionary data specified by the keyword in a dictionary which is selected as a search target on the menu screen with respect to a dictionary search program.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The computer as claimed in claim 1, wherein said issuing section issues the search request for the dictionary data specified by the keyword, with respect to a plurality of dictionaries which are selected as search targets during a time when a define instruction is made to define the input characters of the character string.

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The computer as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

an ending section ending a started program in response to a selection made on the menu screen when a define instruction is made to define the input characters of the character string.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer having a character input function, comprising:

a detecting section detecting a keyword which is specified by one or more input characters from a character string that is being input by the character input function; a display section displaying a menu screen indicating registered programs when the keyword is detected by said detecting section; and a starting section starting a program which is selected on the menu screen while specifying the keyword or an attribute value corresponding to the keyword as a parameter.

5. (ORIGINAL) The computer as claimed in claim 4, further comprising:
a registering section registering data of a corresponding relationship of the keyword and the corresponding attribute value, according to an interactive process.

6. (ORIGINAL) The computer as claimed in claim 4, wherein said display section displays a program which cannot be started by the keyword on the menu screen with a format which indicates that the program cannot be started.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The computer as claimed in claim 4, further comprising:

an ending section ending a started program in response to a selection made on the menu screen when a define instruction is made to define the input characters of the character string.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer having a character input function, comprising:

a detecting section detecting a keyword which is specified by one or more input characters from a character string that is being input by the character input function; a display section displaying a menu screen used for starting a program corresponding to the keyword when the keyword is detected by said detecting section; and a starting section starting the program corresponding to the keyword when a program start request is issued using the menu screen.

9. (ORIGINAL) The computer as claimed in claim 8, further comprising:
a registering section registering data of a corresponding relationship of the keyword and the program, according to an interactive process.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The computer as claimed in claim 8, further comprising:

an ending section ending a started program in response to a selection made on the menu screen when a define instruction is made to define ~~the input characters~~ of the character string.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer having a character input function, comprising:

a detecting section detecting a keyword ~~which is specified by one or more input characters from a character string that is being input by the character input function~~;

a display section displaying a menu screen indicating registered conversion programs when the keyword is detected by said detecting section; and

a starting section starting a conversion program which is selected using the menu screen to subject the keyword to a conversion according to the selected conversion program.

12. (ORIGINAL) The computer as claimed in claim 11, wherein said display section displays a conversion program which cannot convert the keyword on the menu screen with a format which indicates that the program cannot convert.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The computer as claimed in claim 11, further comprising:

an ending section ending a started program in response to a selection made on the menu screen when a define instruction is made to define ~~the input characters~~ of the character string.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer having a character input function, comprising:

a detecting section detecting a keyword ~~which is specified by one or more input characters from a character string that is being input by the character input function~~;

a display section displaying a menu screen in response to a predetermined operation in a state where the keyword is detected by said detecting section; and

an executing section executing a process using the keyword depending on an item selected on the menu screen.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of carrying out a process depending on input characters, comprising the steps of:

- (a) detecting a keyword which is specified by one or more input characters from a character string that is being input by a character input function;
- (b) displaying a menu screen indicating registered dictionaries when the keyword is detected by said step (a); and
- (c) issuing a search request for dictionary data specified by the keyword in a dictionary which is selected as a search target on the menu screen with respect to a dictionary search program.

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of carrying out a process depending on input characters, comprising the steps of:

- (a) detecting a keyword which is specified by one or more input characters from a character string that is being input by a character input function;
- (b) displaying a menu screen indicating registered programs when the keyword is detected by said step (a) keyword detecting; and
- (c) starting a program which is selected on the menu screen while specifying the keyword or an attribute value corresponding to the keyword as a parameter.

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of carrying out a process depending on input characters, comprising the steps of:

- (a) detecting a keyword which is specified by one or more input characters from a character string that is being input by a character input function;
- (b) displaying a menu screen used for starting a program corresponding to the keyword when the keyword is detected by said step (a) keyword detecting; and
- (c) starting the program corresponding to the keyword when a program start request is issued using the menu screen.

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of carrying out a process depending on input characters, comprising the steps of:

- (a) detecting a keyword which is specified by one or more input characters from a character string that is being input by a character input function;
- (b) displaying a menu screen indicating registered conversion programs when the keyword is detected by said step (a) keyword detecting; and

(c) starting a conversion program which is selected using the menu screen to subject the keyword to a conversion according to the selected conversion program.

19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of carrying out a process depending on input characters, comprising ~~the steps of:~~:

- (a) detecting a keyword ~~which is specified by one or more input characters from a character string that is being input by a character input function;~~
- (b) displaying a menu screen in response to a predetermined operation in a state where the keyword is detected by said step (a) keyword detecting; and
- (c) executing a process using the keyword depending on an item selected on the menu screen.

20. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-readable storage medium which stores a character input program for causing a computer to have a character input function, said character input program, comprising:

a detecting procedure causing the computer to detect a keyword ~~which is specified by one or more input characters from a character string that is being input by the character input function;~~

a display procedure causing the computer to display a menu screen indicating registered dictionaries when the keyword is detected by said detecting procedure; and

an issuing procedure causing the computer to issue a search request for dictionary data specified by the keyword in a dictionary which is selected as a search target on the menu screen with respect to a dictionary search program.

21. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-readable storage medium which stores a character input program for causing a computer to have a character input function, said character input program comprising:

a detecting procedure causing the computer to detect a keyword ~~which is specified by one or more input characters from a character string that is being input by the character input function;~~

a display procedure causing the computer to display a menu screen indicating registered programs when the keyword is detected by said detecting procedure; and

a starting procedure causing the computer to start a program which is selected on the menu screen while specifying the keyword or an attribute value corresponding to the keyword as

a parameter.

22. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-readable storage medium which stores a character input program for causing a computer to have a character input function, said character input program comprising:

a detecting procedure causing the computer to detect a keyword ~~which is specified by one or more input characters from a character string that is being input by the character input function~~;

a display procedure causing the computer to display a menu screen used for starting a program corresponding to the keyword when the keyword is detected by said detecting procedure; and

a starting procedure causing the computer to start the program corresponding to the keyword when a program start request is issued using the menu screen.

23. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-readable storage medium which stores a character input program for causing a computer to have a character input function, said character input program comprising:

a detecting program causing the computer to detect a keyword ~~which is specified by one or more input characters from a character string that is being input by the character input function~~;

a display procedure causing the computer to display a menu screen indicating registered conversion programs when the keyword is detected by said detecting procedure; and

a starting procedure causing the computer to start a conversion program which is selected using the menu screen to subject the keyword to a conversion according to the selected conversion program.

24. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-readable storage medium which stores a character input program for causing a computer to have a character input function, said character input program comprising:

a detecting procedure causing the computer to detect a keyword ~~which is specified by one or more input characters from a character string that is being input by the character input function~~;

a display procedure causing the computer to display a menu screen in response to a predetermined operation in a state where the keyword is detected by said detecting procedure;

Serial No. 09/769,380

and

an executing procedure causing the computer to execute a process using the keyword depending on an item selected on the menu screen.